

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OC-05

CCO-00 USPS-01 NIC-01 FEAE-00 /086 W

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P R 201602Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7970

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2217

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB GR

SUBJECT: LABOR-STRIKES AFFECT BOTH GROUND AND AIR  
TRANSPORTATION IN ATHENS AREA

REF: ATHENS 2177

1. BOTH GROUND AND AIR TRANSPORTATION IN ATHENS AREA  
ADVERSELY AFFECTED WITHIN PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BY  
SERIES OF DISRUPTIVE STRIKES. AS REPORTED REFTTEL,  
OPERATIONS OF FOREIGN AIRLINES BROUGHT TO VIRTUAL  
STANDSTILL COMMENCING MID DAY MARCH 19 BY STRIKE OF  
LOCAL GROUND PERSONNEL WHO DEMANDING 37 PERCENT WAGE  
INCREASE. IN ADDITION AN UNOFFICIAL "STRUGGLE  
COMMITTEE" FROM WITHIN RANKS OF LOCAL TAXI CAB UNIONS HAS  
INITIATED A 24 HOUR STRIKE COMMENCING 0600  
MAR 20, AND ALTHOUGH SOME CABS ARE OBSERVED OPERATING,  
IT CLEAR THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER ARE SUPPORTING STRIKE  
WHICH IS AIMED AT SECURING LOWER GASOLINE PRICES FOR  
DRIVERS. FINALLY, UNIONS OF DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS OF  
PUBLIC BUSES HAVE CALLED WORK STOPPAGE TODAY BETWEEN  
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HOURS 5AM-9AM AND 5PM-9PM (IMPORTANT ATHENS COMMUTER

HOURS) THEIR GOAL BEING 35 PC INCREASE IN WAGES. NET EFFECT OF ALL THREE STRIKES IS TO SERIOUSLY HINDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN CAPITAL AREA.

2. OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE TWO FACTS: (1) BUS STRIKE IS OPPOSED BY MAJOR FEDERATION OF AUTOMOTIVE PERSONNEL WHOSE OWN POLICY DIRECTIVE URGED UNION MEMBERS NOT TO STRIKE BUT RATHER TO WAIT FOR COMPLETION OF LABOR MINISTERS STUDY OF THEIR DEMANDS, AND (2) FACT THAT TAXI STRIKE NOT OFFICIALLY CALLED BY UNION LEADERSHIP BUT RATHER INITIATED BY AN AD HOC "STRUGGLE COMMITTEE". THESE EPISODES APPEAR TO DEMONSTRATE BREAKDOWN OF AUTHORITY AND DISCIPLINE WITHIN NORMAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CHAIN OF COMMAND AND PERHAPS PARTIALLY REFLECT FACT THAT LABOR LEADERSHIP AT CONFEDERATION/FEDERATION/LABOR CENTER LEVEL WAS REPLACED COMPLETELY LAST FALL BY FIAT OF CARAMANLIS GOVT (ATHENS A-274, OCT 25, 74) WHILE LOCAL UNIONS LEADERSHIP WAS LEFT UNTOUCHED. FACT OF DISSENSION WITHIN RANKS OF TAXI UNION PERSONNEL HIGHLIGHTED BY RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED NOON TODAY IN NAME OF POLICE AUTHORITIES WHICH TOOK NOTE OF FACT THAT SOME STRIKING DRIVERS WERE MENACING CABBIES WHO WERE OPERATING AND ASSERTED THAT IT "RESPONSIBILITY OF POLICE" TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO WORK.  
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## Message Attributes

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